



Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

October 2023

President's Message

Our speaker for tonight's meeting is from the Ottawa Bonsai Society. Owen Marsh will speak on Beginning Bonsai. His society every year puts on quite a display at the Japanese Embassy. I'm looking forward to this.

By the way, Laura, our membership convener, mentioned that we have 97 members! I can't ever remember our society having that many.

Remember that with your membership card you can get 10% off PLANT material from several businesses. Whitehouse Nursery, Reid's Garden Centre, Canadian Tire, Kiwi Gardens.

We will have Jan Johns from the Ottawa Orchid Society speak at our November 1st meeting. Her topic will be Phalaenopsis: The Moth Orchid. How do these orchids grow in the wild and how does that inform us about keeping them happy and healthy? Learn how to care for your new "box store" Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchid) and keep it blooming for many years in your own home.

We will have our Annual Pot Luck and AGM along with a floral art demonstration on Wednesday, December 6th. This is the meeting where we elect our Board for 2024. Please consider joining the Board. We always welcome new ideas.

For anyone with gardening problems please give me a call. I try to give 'down to earth' advice for a cup of coffee. It has been a beautiful fall with a lot of outside work still left to be done.

Paul Pietsch, 613-267-8067, pjpietsch@yahoo.ca



Evening Primrose
Paul Pietsch, Sep 2023

Joining the Board

Last December, I joined the CPDHS board. I received a warm welcome from the wonderful people leading our society. It has been a truly rewarding experience so far, and has opened my eyes to how much goes on behind the scenes.

Like I did at first, you may be wondering what the board does. The board meets every month with the President (Paul) to go over upcoming events, finances, membership reports and approve or discuss new initiatives. We don't just talk once a month though; we are in communication by email almost every week. In addition, this board is very active in leading the society's activities. Board members lead outward-facing activities such as the Earth Day tables, plant sale, coronation picnic, flower shows or photography competition. We also do a lot of behind the scenes work that isn't always as obvious, such as running social media accounts, email communications, membership recruitment and retention, finances, record-keeping, and connecting with wider groups we belong to, such as District Two and the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). There are no specific requirements to be a board member, but board members are usually reliable people who are passionate about horticulture and have time to contribute to their local community.

Most of all, board members want to encourage fellow gardeners, both new and experienced, by celebrating and promoting horticulture through events and education. We appreciate the members and other volunteers of the CPDHS so much. Without your participation and effort, we wouldn't exist. Never hesitate to come talk to us at meetings, get involved in the society, or send us an email with your thoughts, questions, or ideas.

Brianna Logan, Director

Leaf Arrangement on Plants

At its best, plant identification can be quite daunting. Most people would at least like to know the common names of the plants in their garden. For quite a few of us, botanical names are a much more difficult option. By identifying plants, decisions about their use and care can then also be determined and gardening becomes much more rewarding. Even a walk in the park or hike is much more interesting.

Plants in general are categorized by their flowers and fruit. Unfortunately, flowers are very fleeting, and, in most cases, they last no more than a couple of weeks and the seed structures that follow are a few weeks longer. However, the leaf arrangements are on plants 52 weeks of the year. So, looking at the bud or leaf arrangement on plants becomes so much more important and can be used in plant identification at all times.

Basically, there are three leaf arrangements with an optional fourth. The three leaf arrangements are alternate, opposite, and whorled. The fourth is subopposite. Be careful now! Make sure you are looking at a plant stem and not at a compound leaf. As with all plants, at the end of a simple or compound leaf is a bud. This place on a branch is called a node with a space between the nodes being called internodes. The distance between buds can be short as in the case of bulbs and corms, or quite long as on bamboo or some of our trees.

Alternate leaf arrangement, as the picture shows, has one leaf or bud per node.

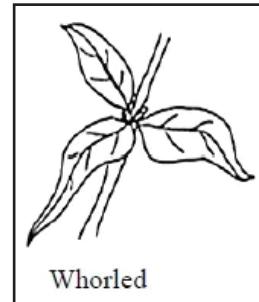
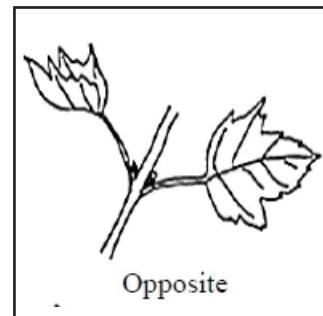
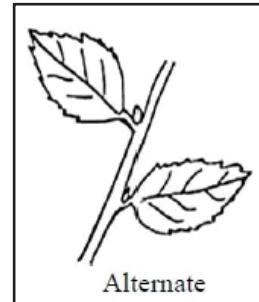
There are more alternate leaf type plants than opposite or whorled. Birch, begonia, and elm are examples. Forsythias are alternate and probably have more than one bud per node: one making vegetative growth and the other being flower buds.

Opposite leaf arrangement is exactly what it says.

Two leaves or buds are opposite each other. Maples, viburnum, and coleus are opposite. This is where some identification can be made. Ash trees are opposite. For these trees, emerald ash borer has become a real problem. On the other hand, mountain ash trees have alternate leaves. This is a definite identifiable feature. (Point of interest - because mountain ash is not even in the same family as ash, it does not attract the emerald ash borer.

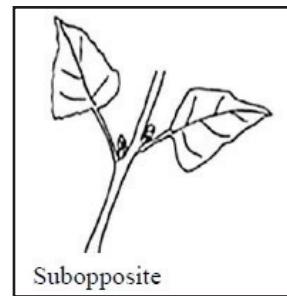
Whorled leaf arrangement is when there are three or more buds per node.

Pines, spruce and fir trees are examples of whorled arrangements - as well as - Catalpa and sometimes P.G. hydrangeas and Joe Pye weed.



The fourth option is subopposite.

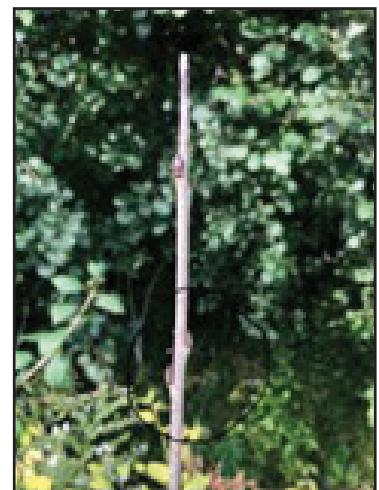
These plants are actually mostly opposite but there could be a slight space between two opposite buds. Black buckthorn, a real menace in our environment, is subopposite. If you identify it on your property, remove it whenever possible.



Most plants in a specific family will only have one leaf arrangement with one or two exceptions. For instance, all plants in the rose family are alternate.

This is just the beginning of plant identification. It makes the outdoor so much more enjoyable as you're able to identify what you are looking at. This allows you to share with others what you have seen. It also helps you to decide if it is a plant you would like in your garden, and if so, you can easily find out how to care for it and if it is appropriate in your garden.

Have a look at the pictures below. Can you identify the leaf arrangement?



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The Carleton Place Environmental Advisory Committee (CPEAC), in cooperation with the Carleton Place Chamber of Commerce, present:

Waste Not! Waste Reduction and Composting in your Home, Business and Community

October is Circular economy month. Week three is Waste Reduction Week, and the 20th is Food Waste Friday! Come earn more about what we can do to reduce waste and create a healthier, more sustainable community.

Friday, October 20th - 10 am to 11:30 am - Town Hall Auditorium, 175 Bridge Street

Admission is free, but pre-registration is required

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/723350289187>

Three presentations:

Peter Landry- on Waste Reduction Strategies for Small Businesses and Organizations.

Environmental Consultant Peter Landry will explore the benefits and challenges of Zero Waste for municipalities and businesses and offer practical tips on how to get started. Peter is an environmental consultant with 29 years of experience as an auditor, trainer, and business/systems analyst. He has been the director of his own company, Viridis Environmental Inc. since 1994 and is based in Ottawa. Peter has completed projects across Canada and has managed or personally completed over 800 waste audits encompassing all regulated sectors. Peter is a certified Environmental Professional (EP) specializing in Waste Management and holds a master's Certificate in Business Analysis from the Schulich School of Business at York University and a Bachelor of Environment and Resource Studies from the University of Waterloo.

Climate Network Lanark (CNL) - On Reducing Organic Waste in Our Community.

A panel of speakers from CNL, including Chair Scott Hortop and co-founder Susan Brandum, will paint a picture of the extent of greenhouse gas emissions caused by organic waste and explain how these models could improve soil health while reducing emissions by returning carbon underground. The panel will open a discussion of how the shift to Extended Producer Responsibility for recyclables could create new opportunities for reducing organic waste across Lanark County.

Just Good Compost - This presentation introduces Just Good Compost, a unique approach to community composting that is designed for smaller, rural municipalities.

Just Good Compost (JGC) is a new service that picks up kitchen scraps from households and food service businesses every week and turns them into high quality compost for its customers. It is a social enterprise that employs local people with intellectual challenges. It was founded by Dr. William Affleck, a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, who, like his wife Kelley, grew up in farm country outside of Almonte. Moving back in 2021 to raise their family, they were surprised with the lack of composting options available in Lanark County. Just Good Compost was started to fill this gap. Having received great support in Almonte they are excited to be coming to Carleton Place in October of 2023.

We hope you can join us for this enlightening and informative event!

For more information, contact Barbara Purdy at cpeac@townofcarletonplace.ca

This newsletter is published by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and is distributed to its members free of charge.

We depend on our members for its content. If you would like to contribute, please send your submissions to: cphorticulture@gmail.com

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